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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

[Redacted]

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21 JUN 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, National Reconnaissance Office

SUBJECT : Satellite Programs

1. Attached is the latest information we have on the satellite schedule for Calendar Year 1962-63 which includes recommendations marked in red.

2. At the present time there are eight CORONA (MURAL) payloads which are not mated with THOR-AGENA vehicles. In view of the present unknowns in the SAMOS program, it is recommended that CORONA be scheduled as noted in the attachment beginning in October 1962 through May of 1963. In addition, it is recommended that an additional five MURAL payloads be purchased to provide coverage through October of Calendar Year 1963. General Curtin's people indicate (a) a decision to procure the additional THOR-AGENAS for the eight CORONA payloads will be required prior to 1 July 1963; (b) the production for THOR-AGENAS is scheduled through May of 1963; and (c) there is a twelve-month delivery lead time required for these articles.

3. With reference to CORONA (MURAL), the last payload is to be delivered in July of 1962. If the production line is shut down, then eight months will be required to re-order and make available for flight. The cost for retooling and starting up the production line would be [Redacted] for the first payload and [Redacted] for each additional camera (present cost). I would recommend that eight THOR-AGENAS be assigned to the present eight available CORONA (MURAL) payloads and that five additional payloads be purchased at this time to ensure coverage through October of 1963.

4. The CORONA (MURAL) and LANYARD programs when combined should provide the community with broad and detailed coverage. The reliable CORONA (MURAL) configuration can be improved by an increase in the focal length

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from 26" to 40". I would propose the procurement of six 40" CORONA (MURAL) payloads together with Air Force vehicles as noted below. The numbers reflected below indicate approximate cost figures my people compiled for this proposal.

Payload Cost

- a. Design and Fabrication of 1st Itek Camera
- b. Five additional Itek Cameras
- c. Nose Cones (6 each) (G.E.)
- d. Film and Processing (EK)

TOTAL

Vehicle and Support Cost

- a. Design and Fabrication of 1st LMEC Subsystem
- b. Five additional LMEC Subsystems
- c. Six THORS
- d. Six THORS (Boost)
- e. Six AGENA D's
- f. Launch Services for 6 THORS
- g. Launch Services for 6 AGENAS
- h. Engineering Services for 6 Shots

TOTAL

5. The program set forth in the attachment points out that by extending the present CORONA program through October of 1963 and allowing fourteen months' lead time for the 40" CORONA program (providing the decision is reached by August 1962) that a reliable proven system will be providing intelligence information through Calendar Year 1963. During the latter part of 1962 and early 1963, if the SAMOS, LANYARD programs have not gone fully operational, then the back-up CORONA and 40" CORONA program will ensure the intelligence community of at least monthly coverage. I hope we will be able to work toward a schedule whereby one would be on standby that could be launched on short notice against specific targets.

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6. Summarizing the recommendations for future Agency satellite programs the following action should be taken:

- a. Eight THOR-AGENA vehicles should be assigned to the eight remaining MURAL payloads;
- b. Five additional CORONA (MURAL) payloads should be procured and THOR-AGENA assigned; and
- c. The procurement of six 40" CORONA (MURAL) systems be initiated.

7. We would appreciate your comments so that we can take appropriate action to implement this program.

HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR.  
Deputy Director  
(Research)

ILLEGIB

Attachment: Satellite Schedule

SIGNATURE RECOMMENDED:

STANLEY W. BEERLI

STANLEY W. BEERLI  
Colonel USAF  
Acting Chief, DPD

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